

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 129537

12

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129537

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET APPROACH ON PRUNING SC AGENDA

REF: USUN 1859

1. AS DEPT INDICATED AT TIME OF 1971 SOVIET APPROACH ON THIS MATTER (STATE 9341 JAN 1971), DELETION OBSOLETE ITEMS FROM SC AGENDA CLEARLY DESIRABLE FROM STANDPOINT ORDERLINESS AND POSSIBILITY WORTH EXPLORING. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE IF EXERCISE MIGHT SERVE AS BARGAINING POINT WITH USSR ON SOME OTHER RELATED MATTER.

2. AT SAME TIME, DEPT CURIOUS ABOUT SOVIET MOTIVATION IN AGAIN RAISING THIS MATTER. MOREOVER, SINCE CONTINUATION OBSOLETE ITEMS ON SC AGENDA HAS IN PRACTICE PRESENTED NO PROBLEMS FROM STANDPOINT EITHER SC OR UN FUNCTIONING, DEPT WOULD NOT WISH PURSUE IDEA IF THIS LIKELY RAISE
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PAGE 02 STATE 129537

COLLATERAL PROBLEMS IN CONTEXT BROADER AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL

RE IMPROVEMENT IN FUNCTIONING SC OR IF FURTHER CONSIDERATION INDICATES THERE NO BETTER PROSPECTS FOR GENERAL AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ITEMS TO BE DELETED NOW THAN IN PAST. ANY SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD OF NECESSITY HAVE TO EXTEND BEYOND PERMANENT AND OTHER SC MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ORIGINAL INSCRIBERS OF ITEMS WHOSE DELETION IS PROPOSED AND OTHERS DIRECTLY CONCERNED AND WOULD THEREFORE ENTAIL EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS. OF SEVEN ITEMS SO FAR REMOVED FROM SC

AGENDA, THREE WERE REMOVED EARLY IN UN'S HISTORY SO AS NOT INTERFERE, UNDER ARTICLE 12 (1) OF CHARTER, WITH GA CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION; THREE WERE AT REQUEST OF ORIGINAL INSCRIBERS; AND ONE WAS AT REQUEST STATE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED AND SC MEMBER AT TIME OF REQUEST.

3. WHILE DEPT HAS REACHED NO FIRM CONCLUSION RE LIST OF SC ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR REMOVAL BY USSR, TIMING WOULD APPEAR RAISE PROBLEMS IN CASE OF SOME, I.E., CZECH AND HUNGARIAN ITEMS IN CSCE CONTEXT.

4. MISSION MIGHT THEREFORE INFORM SOVIET DEL WE PREPARED AT THIS TIME JOIN THEM IN SETTING USEFUL EXAMPLE BY MUTUALLY AGREEING TO DELETION US-USSR AIRCRAFT COMPLAINTS (ITEMS 25, 35 AND 40). WE SEE DEFINITE MERIT IN OVINNIKOV'S SUGGESTION THAT ANY GENERAL EFFORT AT DELETION INCLUDE SOME NON-COLD WAR ISSUES AND ARE THEREFORE CURRENTLY REVIEWING ENTIRE SC AGENDA TO SEE WHAT OTHER ITEMS IN OUR VIEW MIGHT ALSO BE DELETED AS OBSOLETE. WE WILL INFORM THEM OF RESULTS THIS REVIEW WHEN IT COMPLETED.

5. IN DEPT'S VIEW, RESPONSE OF THIS CHARACTER TO SOVIET APPROACH WOULD BE POSITIVE AND AT SAME TIME AVOID, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, POSSIBLY DIVISIVE PROBLEMS AS WELL AS WIDESPREAD AND TIME-CONSUMING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER UN MEMBERS. MISSION'S COMMENTS REQUESTED AND ALSO ITS ASSESSMENT AUSTRIAN INTENTIONS RE BROADER PROPOSAL AND ITS THINKING RE POSSIBLE SOVIET MOTIVATION IN REOPENING THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME. SISCO

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